Appl. No. 09/450,023
Response to Office Action of May 18, 2006
Amdt. Dated October 3, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for bidding by vendors of customized goods or services, comprising steps of:

receiving a plurality of vendor records ~~via~~ into a computer system ~~network~~, the vendor records corresponding to each of a plurality of vendors and having vendor capability data identifying a plurality of capabilities for said vendor to provide a customized good or service;

each buyer using the system identifying a plurality of vendors for inclusion in a pool of vendors, every vendor pool being associated with a corresponding buyer based upon the buyer identification prior to analysis of any job data pertaining to a job for which bids are sought by or on behalf of the buyer;

~~in a pool of vendors, each of said vendor records having vendor identifier data representing a vendor, and vendor capability data identifying a plurality of capabilities for said vendor to provide a customized good or service, wherein the plurality of vendor records are associated with at least one vendor pool or more than one of a plurality of established vendor pools, each vendor pool being associated with a corresponding buyer and having a plurality of vendor records;~~

receiving a job data from or on behalf of at least one buyer, said job data including ~~having a buyer identifier data, and~~ a job descriptor data which specifies a plurality of

2

characteristics of said customized good or service for which said buyer wishes a price quote or bid;

automatically comparing via a computer processor said vendor records to said job data, wherein said comparing includes comparing each of said plurality of characteristics for said customized good or service with corresponding plural capabilities for vendors each vendor only from the pool of vendors associated with said buyer;

automatically identifying via a computer processor at least one subset from the pool of vendors as qualified for receiving an invitation for bid, based on said comparison;

selectively transmitting a solicitation to only selected members from the pool of vendors;

receiving bid response data from at least one of said vendors which received said solicitation, said bid response data identifying each of the vendors from which it was received and a bid price; and

outputting to said buyer at least one of said bid response data.

Claims 2-26 (Cancelled)

3